GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:643
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2002
EXPORT OF ONION AND POTATO
SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of onion and potato are high as compared to the international market and there is scarcity of these commodities in the country;

(b) if so, the prices of onion and potato in international market;

(c) the quantity of onion and potato exported during the last three years, country-wise alongwith the foreign exchange earned; and

(d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government to keep prices of onion and potato under control domestically?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (a) TO (d) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 643 FOR 10/05/2002 REGARDING EXPORT OF ONION AND POTATO

(a) & (b): The international prices of onion and potato were higher compared to the prevailing domestic retail prices during last three years as given in Annexure I. There is no scarcity of onion and potato in the country. The production of these items was higher than the normal production during the last three years.

(c) : The quantity of onion and potato exported during the last three years, country-wise, and the foreign exchange earned, are indicated in Annexure II and III.

(d) : The Government has inter-alia taken following steps to control the prices of onion and potato in the country:

(i) Development of Commercial Horticulture through production and post harvest management.

(ii) Capital investment subsidy schemes for construction/expansion/modernization of cold storages and storages for Horticulture produce.

(iii) Market information service for Horticulture crops.

(iv) Constitution of an Inter-Ministerial Review Committee to monitor the availability andopen market prices periodically for export of onion.

(v) Putting quantitative restrictions (since 1999) on the export of onion to protect consumers` interests and to regulate exports to avoid sharp fluctuations in prices.

(vi) Regular monitoring of prices of onion and potato (among others) through daily and weekly price monitoring.

(vii) Removing all restrictions on the import of onion and potato to augment supplies.

ANNEXURE - I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (a) & (b) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 643 FOR 10/05/2002

PRODUCTION, DOMESTIC PRICES AND INTERNATIONAL PRICES OF ONION AND POTATO DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS

Year	Production+ (Lakh tonnes)		Domestic Prices++ (Rs. per kg.)		International Prices ($ per tonne)		International Prices+++ (Rs. per kg.)	
	Onion	Potato	Onion	Potato	Onion	Potato	Onion	Potato
1999-2000	49.0	247.1	3-18	2-12	98-454	92-277	4-20	4-12
2000-2001	52.3	221.4	2-15	2-10	102-388	92-214	5-18	4-10
2001-2002	54.8	250.1	2.5-18	4-12	117-355	87-275	5-18	4-13

Note:

+ The normal annual production of onion and potato is 46 lakh tonnes and 215 lakh tonnes, respectively.
++ Domestic retail price range per kg. in respect of onion and potato are price ranges of the two items prevailing in 18 major consuming centers/State capitals in the country.
+++ The average exchange rate prevailing in the respective years have been used for conversion of dollars into Rupees as per the RBI norms.

Production Data - Source: D/o Agriculture & Cooperation.
Domestic Prices - Source: D/o Consumer Affairs.
International Prices - Source: D/o Commerce.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (c) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 643 FOR 10/05/2002

EXPORT OF ONION DURING 1999-2000 TO 2001-2002 (Qty in MT) (Value in US $)

Country	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002+	
	Quantty	Value	Quantty	Value	Quantty	Value
Argentina	9	1708	-	-	-	-
Australia	30	7639	151	46727	96	24869
Bahamas	-	-	150	25052	-	-
Baharain	1742	299566	4977	981630	3521	588121
Bangladesh	73851	12921789	55164	8354218	71019	10164018
Barbados	938	135464	-	-	-	-
Belgium	17	5908	42	5989	-	-
Bhutan	10	4454	-	-	-	-
Brunei	192	64939	1011	312059	499	173637
Burundi	41	12162	-	-	-	-
Canada	10	1338	2	636	11	14748
Chinese Taipai	-	-	409	158563	-	-
Colombia	100	13131	150	31612	122	14241
Denmark	1	231	-	-	50	8261
France	66	29977	76	15027	19	17347
Georgea	-	-	200	27180	-	-
Germany	-	-	114	37710	99	133006
Ice-land	-	-	-	-	75	16565
Indonesia	1428	367967	2262	619751	1026	206682
Japan	-	-	10	2260	-	-
Kenya	12	2215	-	-	-	-
Kuwait	376	56978	950	148011	-	-
Malagasy Rep.	-	-	137	20775	-	-
Malaysia	70894	14047105	98178	19987320	68007	12946810
Maldives	11	2931	975	176157	357	62034
Mali	3550	903752	1687	545340	-	-
Mauritious	5874	1048977	7804	1189661	4412	575190
Nepal	-	-	8	1952	5	613
Netherland	270	30970	347	81958	64	64485

New Zealand	-	-	38	11013	84	14706	
Nigeria	20	3369	-	-	-	-	
Oman	12	1177	27	3971	41	5620	
Pakistan	-	-	1692	242364	-	-	
Phillipines	-	-	171	32248	175	24742	
Qatar	585	86609	478	73929	120	17769	
Reunion	1340	299058	1529	289485	2303	452199	
Russia	21	3023	97	15312	-	-	
Saudi Arabia	941	136594	1455	252082	2269	392087	
Seychelles	476	88086	276	50215	599	89734	
Singapore	13151	2477298	14461	2426203	11592	1762777	
Solomon	575	64893	50	5089	-	-	
South Africa	60	11492	-	-	-	-	
Spain	175	26631	-	-	-	-	
Srilanka	50023	8468201	82687	13589583	38045	5076558	
Thailand	47	5815	-	-	-	-	
Turkey	20	9323	-	-	-	-	
U.A.E.	32993	5034489	65284	10796676	43342	7302288	
UK	21	7731	28	7195	-	-	
U.S.A.	587	94801	180	90119	-	86797	
Total	260469	46777791	343257	60655071	247952	40235903	

+ April 2001 to November 2001. Country-wise data from December 2001 to March 2002 is yet to be released by DGCIS, D/o Commerce.

There have been no imports of onion during these years.

Conversion rate of 1 US $ in 1999-2000 = Rs.43.3327;
in 2000-2001 = Rs.45.58444 and
in 2001-2002 = Rs.47.328725 as per RBI norms.

Source: D/o Commerce.

ANNEXURE - I

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (c) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 643 FOR 10/05/2002

EXPORT OF POTATO DURING 1999-2000 TO 2001-2002 (Qty in MT) (Value in US $)

Country	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002+	
	Quantty	Value	Quantty	Value	Quantty	Value
Angola			55	9345		
Australia	16	1085			3	296
Bahrain	1	277	40	5002		
Bangladesh	4798	440753			70	7628
Brunei			22	4717		
Germany	75	877				
Japan	50	6554				
Italy					14	3254
Malaysia	390	73247	177	22003	266	29792
Maldives			7	921		
Mouritius	25	3762	750	131997	20	1733
Nepal	273	20100	5440	306377	5478	348118
Oman			103	11978	1	275
Qutar	7	415				
Saudi Arabia	2	4062	37	5353	5	528
Singapore	164	17285	72	11890	74	7142
Sri Lanka	21849	2559614	14487	1826283	371	48977

U.A.E.	482	80147	1356	200595	597	123773
U.K.	75	7985				
U.S.A.			90	8314	30	2007
TOTAL	28207	3216162	22636	2544774	6929	573521

+ April 2001 to November 2001. Country-wise data from December 2001 to March 2002 is yet to be released by DGCIS, D/o Commerce.

There have ben no imports of potato during these years.

Conversion rate of 1 US $ in 1999-2000 = Rs.43.3327;
in 2000-2001 = Rs.45.58444 and
in 2001-2002 = Rs.47.328725 as per RBI norms.

Source: D/o Commerce.